National Committee of political parties on natural calamities

*33. SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI:
SHRI RAM DAS AGARWAL:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are considering a proposal to constitute a National Committee of political parties to meet present and future challenges of natural calamities in various parts of the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) whether the regional parties and other small parties, which are concerned with the problems in their respective areas, will also find a place in the proposed Committee?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI NITISH KUMAR): (a) to (c) A National Committee on Disaster Management has been set up by the Government of India on 13th February, 2001 under the Chairmanship of Hon'ble Prime Minister having representation of the Presidents of the National and State Level Political Parties. The National Committee will suggest:

(i) Short-term, medium term and long term steps for relief, rehabilitation and reconstruction in the earthquake affected areas of Gujarat,

(ii) Deliberate on the necessary institutional and legislative measures needed for an effective and long-term strategy to deal with major natural calamities in the future,

(iii) Look into the parameters that should define a National Calamity February, 2001.

2. A copy of the composition of the Committee is given below as statement.

Statement

COMPOSITION OF THE NATIONAL COMMITTEE ON DISASTER MANAGEMENT

Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee, Prime Minister	Chairman
Shri Sharad Pawar, Member of Parliament	Vice-Chairman

Ministers

1.	Shri L.K. Advani	Minister of Home Affairs
2.	Shri George Fernandes	Minister of Defence
3.	Shri Yashwant Sinha	Minister of Finance
4.	Shri K.C. Pant	Deputy Chairman, Planning Commission
5.	Shri Nitish Kumar	Minister of Agriculture
6.	Shri Kashiram Rana	Minister of Textiles
7.	Shri Jagmohan	Minister of Urban Development
8.	Shri Pramod Mahajan	Minister of Parliamentry Affairs—*Convenor*
9.	Dr. A.P.J. Abdul Kalam	Principal Scientific Advisor

Gujarat

Shri Keshubhai Patel, Chief Minister, Gujarat

Representatives of the National Parties

1. Smt. Sonia Gandhi, President, Indian National Congress
2. Shri Bangaru Laxman, President, Bharatiya Janata Party
3. Shri Kanshi Ram, President, Bahujan Samaj Party
4. Shri Harkishan Singh Surjit. General Secretary, Communist Party of India (Marxist)
5. Shri A.B. Bardhan, General Secretary, Communist Party of India.

Representatives of State Parties

1. Ms. J. Jayalalitha, General Secretary, All India Anna Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam
2. Ms. Mamta Banerjee, Chairperson, All India Trinamool Congress
3. Shri Prafulla Kumar Mahanta, President, Asom Gana Parishad
4. Shri Naveen Patnaik, President, Biju Janata Dal
5. Shri M. Karunanidhi, President, Dravida Munnetra Kazhagzam
6. Shri Om Prakash Chautala, Acting President, Indian National Lok Dal

7. Dr. Farooq Abdullah, President, Jammu & Kashmir National Conference.
8. Shri Sharad Yadav, President, Janata Dal (United)
9. Shri Vaiko, President, Marumalarchi Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam
10. Shri Zoramthanga, President, Mizo National Front
11. Shri Syed Mohammedali Shihab Thangal, President, Muslim League Kerala State Committee
12. Shri G.K. Mani, President, Pattali Makkal Katchi
13. Shri Laloo Prasad Yadav, President, Rashtriya Janata Dal
14. Shri Mulayam Singh Yadav, President, Samajwadi Party
15. Smt. Jaya Jaitly, President, Samata Party
16. Shri Prakash Singh Badal, President, Shiromani Akali Dal (Badal)
17. Shri Balasaheb Thakeray, President, Shiv Sena
18. Shri Pawan Chamling, President, Sikkim Democratic Front
19. Shri G.K. Moopanar, President, Tamil Maanila Congress (Moopanar)
20. Shri N. Chandrababu Naidu, President, Telugu Desam

The Cabinet Secretary will be the Member-Secretary of the National Committee.

Indo Pak Dialogue

*34. SHRI SANJAY NIRUPAM: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Pak Chief Executive Officer Pervez Musharraf and the Indian Prime Minister talked on phone, recently;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) since when there has been no official dialogue between two countries and the steps taken towards confidence building measures, so far?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI JASWANT SINGH): (a) and (b) General Pervez Musharraf, Chief Executive of Pakistan called Prime Minister Atal Bihar Vajpayee on 2nd February 2001 to convey his sympathy at the great loss of life and property caused by the earthquake in Gujarat. Prime Minister thanked the